IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Previously Presented). A method comprising:

detecting a user input;

in response to the detection of a user input, generating a graphical user interface before the operating system has booted;

receiving an input from the user through said graphical user interface; and

after receiving said input, booting the operating system.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein detecting a user input includes detecting the operation of a push button.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein generating a graphical user interface includes generating a graphical user interface using a graphics controller.

4 (Original). The method of claim 3 including storing information for generating said graphical user interface on an option memory.

5 (Original). The method of claim 1 including using boot code running on a graphics controller to generate the graphical user interface.

6 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein generating a graphical user interface includes generating a graphical user interface to enable the user to input a password.

7 (Original). The method of claim 6 wherein generating a graphical user interface includes generating an on-screen keyboard.

8 (Original). The method of claim 1 including receiving inputs from the user through the graphical user interface without a keyboard.

9 (Original). The method of claim 1 including authenticating a user and allowing the operating system to boot if the user has been authenticated.

10 (Original). The method of claim 9 including receiving a password entered without a keyboard using the graphical user interface.

11 (Previously Presented). An article comprising a medium storing instructions that enables a processor-based system to:

detect a user input;

generate a graphical user interface before the operating system has booted;

receive an input from the user through said graphical user interface; and

after receipt of said input, boot the operating system.

12 (Original). The article of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the processor-based system to detect the operation of a push button.

13 (Original). The article of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the processor-based system to generate a graphical user interface using a graphics controller.

14 (Original). The article of claim 13 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the processor-based system to generate said graphical user interface on an option memory.

15 (Original). The article of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the processor-based system to use the boot code running on a graphics controller to generate the graphical user interface.

16 (Original). The article of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the processor-based system to generate a graphical user interface to enable the user to input a password.

17 (Original). The article of claim 16 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the processor-based system to generate an on-screen keyboard.

18 (Original). The article of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the processor-based system to receive inputs from the user through the graphical user interface without a keyboard.

19 (Original). The article of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the processor-based system to authenticate a user and allow the operating system to boot if the user has been authenticated.

20 (Original). The article of claim 19 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the processor-based system to receive a password entered without a keyboard using the graphical user interface.

Claims 21-25 (Canceled).